

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A pipe liner connector suitable for use with connected pipe sections having an internal liner, the pipe liner connector comprising a substantially cylindrical sleeve located inside the pipe sections having opposed open ends for sealed attachment to the internal liner of the connected pipe sections, one open end including a diametrically increased ring section longitudinally displaced from said open end towards the opposed open end, said ring section having one or more venting grooves located on an outer surface thereof and extending longitudinally thereon, said open end including one or more seals located between the open end and the ring section having a diameter intermediate of the cylindrical sleeve and ring section, wherein the one or more seals provides a liquid tight connection with an internal surface of the internal liner while the ring section engages with an internal surface of the pipe section, and the substantially cylindrical sleeve defining defines one or more vents extending radially through the cylindrical sleeve to provide fluid communication, in use, between a micro-annulus, formed between the internal liner and the connected pipe sections, and a bore defined by the connected pipe sections, for balancing a pressure differential between the micro-annulus and the bore.
2. (original) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the pipe liner connector further comprises a shielding ring located between the opposed open ends.

3. (previously presented) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the shielding ring is heat resistant.

Claims 4-6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein an open end comprises one or more circumferential grooves suitable for receiving an adhesive and a second vent located between the one or more circumferential grooves and the open end.

Claims 8-12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) A pipe assembly comprising:

a pipe having first and second pipe sections defining respective axial bores;

an internal pipe liner comprising first and second liner sections located within the respective first and second pipe sections, wherein an end of the first pipe section substantially abuts an end of the second pipe section such that the bores are substantially aligned; and

a pipe liner connector located inside the pipe sections for connecting the first liner section to the second liner section, the pipe liner connector including a substantially cylindrical sleeve having opposed open ends for sealed attachment to the first and second internal liner sections of the connected pipe sections;

wherein a micro-annulus is formed between the internal pipe liner and the pipe;

and

wherein the cylindrical sleeve defines one or more vents extending radially therethrough thereby providing fluid communication between the micro-annulus and the aligned bores to balance a pressure differential therebetween.

14. (previously presented) A pipe assembly as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the cylindrical sleeve includes a diametrically increased ring section longitudinally displaced from each open end.

15. (previously presented) A pipe assembly as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the increased ring sections have one or more venting grooves located on an outer surface thereof and extending longitudinally thereon.

16. (previously presented) A pipe assembly as claimed in Claim 13 wherein each open end defines one or more circumferential grooves suitable for receiving an adhesive.

17. (previously presented) A pipe assembly as claimed in Claim 16 wherein each open end defines a second vent located between the one or more circumferential grooves and the open end.

18. (previously presented) A pipe assembly as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the pipe liner connector further comprises a shielding ring located radially inward and adjacent a substantially annular notch formed by the substantially abutting ends to facilitate welding the abutting ends together.

19. (previously presented) A pipe assembly as claimed in Claim 18 wherein the shielding ring at least partially forms the substantially annular notch.

20. (new) A pipe liner connector suitable for use with connected pipe sections having an internal liner, the pipe liner connector comprising a substantially cylindrical sleeve located inside the pipe sections having opposed open ends, a first open end including a diametrically increased ring section longitudinally displaced from said open end towards the opposed open end, said first open end including one or more seals located between the open end and the ring section having a diameter intermediate of the cylindrical sleeve and the ring section, wherein the one or more seals provides a liquid tight connection with an internal surface of the internal liner for sealed attachment of the connector to the internal liner of the connected pipe sections, the ring section abutting against the end of the internal liner, and wherein the substantially cylindrical sleeve defines one or more vents extending radially through the cylindrical sleeve to provide fluid communication, in use, between a micro-annulus, formed between the internal liner and the connected pipe sections, and a bore defined by the connected pipe sections, for balancing a pressure differential between the micro-annulus and the bore.

21. (new) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 20 wherein said ring section has one or more venting grooves located on the outer surface thereof and extending longitudinally thereon.

22. (new) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 20 wherein the one or more vents includes control means for controlling flow of gas through the vents.

23. (new) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 20 wherein the ring section engages with the internal surface of the pipe section.

24. (new) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 20 wherein a second open end of the sleeve opposes the first open end and includes a second diametrically increased ring section longitudinally displaced toward the first open end.

25. (new) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 24 wherein the pipe liner connector includes a shielding ring located between the first and second ring sections.